

US Application No. 10/021,186

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks and amendments.

Claim Status and Amendments

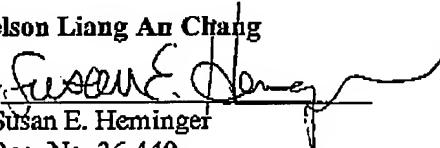
Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 22 stand rejected. Claims 3-5, 7, 10-12, 14, 19-21, and 23 are objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent Claims 1, 8, and 15 are cancelled and claims 3, 10, and 19 are rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The remaining rejected/objectionable dependent claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 22, and 23 are now amended to be dependent upon now allowable claims 3, 10, and 19 and hence, are also allowable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are now mute in view of these amendments. This application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Withdrawal of all rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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